Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 23 Number 8 *September 2006*

Bishop's Convo

An Opportunity For Learning, Fellowship and Relaxation

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Harrison Hot Springs in B.C. is again the location for the 2006 Bishop's Convocation from Sunday, Oct. 15, through Tuesday, Oct. 17, Rostered personnel and spouses from Northwest Washington Synod will have an opportunity for learning, fellowship and relaxation.

This year's theme is *Charitable Gifting and You* with speakers Bishop Wm Chris Boerger; Rev. Dr. Wayne Weissenbuehler, retired Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod; and Cynthia Halverson, CFRE, Director, Fund for Leaders in Mission.

Cost is $275 per person for double occupancy or $470 per person for single occupancy. Registration includes two nights lodging and the use of all the resort amenities, an evening banquet on Sunday, two deluxe continental breakfasts and two coffee breaks.

Registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 11, 2006. This is a firm deadline. Registration can be made on-line at www.lutheransnw.org and click on the Bishop Convo link. Payment can be made by credit card or by check.

Remember when crossing the border you need your original birth certificate or a valid US Passport. For more information about Harrison Hot Springs Resort please visit www.harrisonresort.com.

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Making Team Work!

Calling All Church Staff Teams

You are invited to a conference just for you, whether you are rostered or non-rostered. (This means pastors, church administrators, secretaries, education staff, music staff, youth staff and church councils.) This conference is geared to help strengthen our collegial relationships in order to support the work and ministries of our churches and congregations.

Making Team Work! will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, at the Lynnwood Conference Center in Lynnwood. Keynote speakers are Rev. Anthony B Robinson and Dr. Rob Wall. They are co-authors of the book *Called to Be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day.* The day will be divided up into three workshops.

We encourage you to bring as many team members as possible for education, discussion and fellowship. Conference fee is $45/$50 after Friday, Sept. 8. Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 21.

For more information please visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on Calendar. This event is brought to you by the Northwest Washington Synod Leadership Support Committee, Rev. Thom Wert, Chair.

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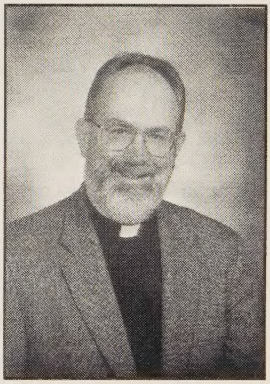
Deadline for the October 2006 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Tuesday, September 5. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop

We obligate ourselves to bring the first fruits of our soil
and the first fruits of all fruit of every tree,
year by year, to the house of the LORD...
Nehemiah 10:35



The Reverend
Chris Boerger

The annual Stewardship education event has become a regular part of our life together. The Rev. Phil Reitz, deployed stewardship specialist, does a good job of bringing helpful and stimulating speakers to keynote these one-day events. There are also workshops on topics that have come from congregations to support your local work.

Those who have attended have found these to be most beneficial. I want to raise up this year's Stewardship event for your consideration. Under the theme *Ask, Thank, Tell*, the financial expert Rev. Chick Lane will be speaking from his book of the same title. The focus of the event is on practical and usable help for congregational leaders.

One of the repeated questions I hear when I visit congregations and councils is, "What help can you give us in developing or expanding our financial stewardship?" This event is one of those helping opportunities. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30, at First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach in Shoreline (18354 Eighth Ave NW). It will run from 8:30am until 2pm. The cost is $65 for four people from one congregation. The registration includes lunch and a copy of Pastor Lane's book. (For more information or to register, please visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on the link on the home page.)

It has become increasingly clear to me that we, as congregations and as the other expressions of the church, need to focus our efforts on the basics of our faith. Stewardship, Evangelism, Christian Education, etc. are all areas that need our education and our sharing of ideas. The synod is in a position to host these discussions and mutual sharing.

I want to lift up this one event for your consideration. By attending this event all of your questions will not be answered, but it might give you the question that will focus your work for the coming months. The networking of the church around the topic of our faithful stewardship of God's gifts will only serve to strengthen the Body of Christ.

Synod Council Update

By Sharon Greenwood, Vice President

206-283-5546
sharon5546@comcast.net

The Synod Council met on July 15 at Grace Chinese Lutheran Church in Seattle. This was the final meeting for those of us who are now completing our term.

The Council celebrated the transfer of the Hope Lutheran Church property to Grace Chinese Lutheran Church with Bishop Boerger passing the recorded deed to Pastors Paul Cheung, Wendy Cheung and Jimmy Hao. Thanks to Paul Rieke and Gary Sievert for their work to accomplish the transfer.

The Council appointed persons to three positions on the Synod Council: Rev. Kathleen Anderson (interim, Faith in Everett); Fritz Baesman (Lutheran Church of the San Juans); and Gunbjorg Ladstein (Ballard First in Seattle). The appointees are the persons who received the next highest number of votes at the Synod Assembly in the respective categories to which they were appointed and who agreed to serve.

The Council appointed persons to serve as PLU Corporation Delegates: Rev. James Miley (Christ the Servant in Bellingham); Milly Olden (Lord of Life in Renton); Diane Lewis (Lord of Life in Renton); Rev. Dennis Anderson (Bethany in Seattle); Dr. Mark Egbert (Prince of Peace in Shoreline); Glenn Ryder (Denny Park in Seattle); Steven Chapman (Central in Seattle); Rev. Jerry Buss (Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor); Sylvia Pugh (First of Richmond Beach in Shoreline); Rev. Lisa Dahlen (Crown in Seattle); Sherianne Caldwell (Luther Memorial in Seattle); Nicola Seiler (Shepherd of the Hills in Issaquah);

In response to Synod Assembly Resolution D, the Council appointed persons to serve on a Fair Trade Resource Group: Cynthia Kopperstad (Grace in Des Moines); Teresa Whidtfeldt (Burlington in Burlington); Debra Compton (Peace in Silvana); Lois Fisher (Christ the King in Snohomish); Lenore Peterson (Trinity in Lynnwood); Marla Blaser (Faith in Seattle); Sherianne Caldwell (Luther Memorial in Seattle); Luana Langford (Saint Mark in Seattle); Mary Ardissono (Shepherd of the Hills in Issaquah); Mary Frantz (Grace in Des Moines); Kim Unti (Saint Matthew in Renton); and Laurie Stevahn (First Evangelical in Bothell).

The Council appointed Carla Berg (Sammamish Hills in Sammamish) to chair the 2007 Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

With the closing of Renton Lutheran Church on June 25th, the Synod became owner of the church property. The Council appointed persons to serve on a Synodical Administration Council to oversee redevelopment of the Renton property: Rev Bob Lewis (Nativity in Renton); Rev. Brian "Red" Burchfield (ELCA deployed staff); Pamela Nel (Lord of Life in Renton); George Jones (Lord of Life in Renton); and Phil Edlund (Trinity in Tacoma).

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

Synod Council Update

The Council designated clusters for the coming year with changes from the prior year as follows: Church of the Beloved was added in the Sno-King Cluster; Living Truth was added in the Cascadia Cluster; the Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship was added in the NW Seattle Cluster; and Renton Lutheran was removed from the South King Cluster.

The Council approved an amendment to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws for proposal to the 2007 Synod Assembly. If adopted, the amendment would provide that persons who are nominated but not elected to Synod Council positions for youth, Associate in Ministry and for the offices of Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer may be nominated from the floor for an unrestricted position on the Council.

The Council approved changes to the compensation guidelines for rostered personnel as follows: a 2.8 percent increase in the salaries chart for the year 2007; rates for supply pastors of $200 for one service, $300 for two services, and $100 for each additional service in the same location on the same day; and the annual allowance for continuing education be increased to $750 per year.

The next Synod Council meeting will take place on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Prince of Peace in Everett. Business will include consideration of the two resolutions from the Synod Assembly, which were unfinished business: P – Celebrating Traditional Marriage and R – Praying for Reconciliation and Celebrating Unity in Christ.

For additional information or to offer input to the Synod Council, you may contact incoming Vice President Larry Johnson at development@holdenvillage.org or members of the Council. Contact information is available at www.lutheransw.org/council.

As I close, a personal word –

Thank you for the beautiful tulips, the exquisite metal cross, your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief in my honor, and your kind words. I am deeply moved by your thoughtfulness. Thank you for all you do to serve God's world through this church in this place. I have been blessed by serving with you. Thank you for this rare privilege.

Sharon Greenwood, outgoing Synod Vice President, standing with Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry, incoming Synod Vice President.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

The New ELCA Book of Worship

To introduce the new ELCA book of worship and a future of renewing worship, four workshops will be held in our synod this fall. These workshops are for pastors, musicians, lay worship leaders, worship planners and anyone else who has a interest in the new hymnal.

- Sunday, Oct. 29; 2 to 7:30 p.m; Trinity Lutheran, 6215 196th Street SW, Lynnwood
- Saturday, Nov. 4; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Salem Lutheran, 2529 North Laventure Road, Mount Vernon
- Saturday, Nov. 11; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Phinney Ridge Lutheran, 7500 Greenwood Ave North, Seattle
- Sunday, Nov. 12; 2 to 7:30 p.m.; Saint Matthew Lutheran, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, Renton

Cost is $25 per person and includes a copy of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and lunch/dinner. Registration is required. To register please visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on Calendar.

The new worship resource, scheduled for release in early October, contains ten musical settings of Holy Communion, 15 new additional services, propers for the church year, all 150 psalms, an inclusive hymnody section featuring more than 700 hymns and songs, Luther's *Small Catechism* and complete indices. For more information about Renewing Worship please visit www.renewingworship.org. Pre-orders are being taken by Augsburg Fortress. To pre-order please visit www.augsburgfortress.org or call 1-800-328-4648.

Nominations and Election of a Bishop in 2007

by Mark J. Jackson, Bishop Election Task Force Member

Forms and other materials are available at www.lutheransnw.org

The nomination period for the 2007 Bishop Election opens December 1, 2006, and runs through February 28, 2007. Nominations received prior to, or after, this period will not be considered. Once a person has been nominated, his/her name will appear on the first ballot at the 2007 Synod Assembly, unless the nominee removes himself or herself from the ballot in writing by March 7, 2007. Additional nominations may not be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Prior to the Synod Assembly (in April or May 2007), two forums will be held to introduce candidates to the synod. Additionally, there will be one forum held during the 2007 Synod Assembly when the number of nominees has reached seven or fewer.

For more information, please contact: Larry Johnson, Vice President, Northwest Washington Synod, 425- 226-6629, development@holdenvillage.org; or Mary Beth Short, Chair, Task Force for the Nominations and Election of a Bishop, 253-854-4438, mbshort@mindspring.com

Remembering The Words Of The Lord Jesus

by Fred Robbins
Chair, Synod Ethiopian Task Force

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206-786-3369 (cell)
fred@robbinsmetal.com

It is good to remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. From Acts 20: 35 we read the title of this letter to us; verse 35 continues, how he said, " It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Can you recall a time you gave something and felt good about it; joy in and from our hearts, given in the name of Jesus? So I ask us to remember His words as we look at our abundant blessings, and our hearts as we reach out; "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Our Ethiopian companion church brothers and Sisters, send their heartfelt gratitude for our gifts, which help them so much. They write, "Please may we kindly ask you to accept our profound thanks and deep gratitude for your kind cooperation, and financial support. We believe that the cooperation, and assistance made by your good office has created a real unity, and immensely raised mutual understanding between your office, and our Synod which will never be forgotten in our future life. Had you not been with us in this rigorous way of Christian service, it would have been very difficult to us to do all what we did in our Synod operational areas which every one of us will never forget for a moment. Hoping that you will continue to be with us in every available forum, you would get to help the people of the Lord, and continue to work the work of the Lord."

The church in Ethiopia is growing very fast. There is a critical need for Lay Leadership and Evangelism training, which we on the Synod Ethiopian Task Force and the Synod Global Mission Committee completely support. The Synod has made an annual commitment of $8,000 to support this need. We currently only have $299.64. Please pray for support to this need. When you send your gift to the Region One office or to the Synod office please specify that it is for the Ethiopian companion church program for Lay Leadership, and Evangelism training. We will make sure it gets to the intended place. Thank you for helping. God bless you all in your ministry efforts.

Editor's Correction

In the August Soundings I incorrectly mentioned that the 2006 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly an offering was taken to support two ministries: the Haik Orphanage and and El Camino de Emaus. This was incorrect.

This year's Synod Assembly offering was taken to support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and El Camino de Emaus. The amount of the offering was correct. Because of our generosity $10,327.76 was shared between these two ministries. Thanks be to God.

Ask, Thank, Tell

Ask are there ways we can improve our congregational stewardship program?

Thank goodness there are many resources available to help answer that question. Author and speaker Charles R. "Chick" Lane, Director of the ELCA's Stewardship Key Leaders Program, will be here in our Synod in September to lead a discussion on how to improve our stewardship ministry. Lane will offer practical, easy-to-follow steps from his book, *Ask, Thank, Tell—Improving Stewardship Ministry In Your Congregation.*

Tell your congregation's church council, stewardship committee members, lay leaders and congregational members about this opportunity.

The 2006 Stewardship event will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.) on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006, at First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, 18354 Eighth Ave NW, Shoreline Cost is $65 (up to four people from one congregation, includes lunch and a copy of Charles Lane's book). You can register on-line at www.lutheransnw.org and click on the *Ask, Thank, Tell* link on the home page. You can pay by credit card or check.

Come To The Water

The Northwest Washington Synod, in partnership with the Oregon Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, will hold a training event on Friday, Oct. 6 and Saturday, Oct. 7, in Portland to introduce the catechumenate to interested pastors and congregational teams. There is a nominal cost of $25 per person ($30 per person after September 30) plus housing and transportation. Please visit www.catechumenate.org/Oregon2006.pdf for a brochure and registration form. You may also contact Pastor Bev Piro at 206-783-2350 for more information.

Christian Recovery Sponsors Wanted

Christians new to recovery from addictions meet for support every week in the Chapel of Steadfast Love at the Compass Center in Seattle. They would like to be joined by other Christians, with longer sobriety, who want a Bible-based recovery meeting with freedom to call their higher Power by his name, Jesus. They also are requesting Christian sponsors. The Chapel of Steadfast Love Christian Recovery and Support Group for men and women meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursdays at 210 Alaskan Way South. Participants are also invited for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Call Pastor Sue Wanwig at 206-357-3112 for details, or come to a meeting.

Reaching People and Communities

In Our Postmodern World

Seismic changes are occurring in the church and culture, and leaders need to know how to navigate this new terrain. Jesus led and lived with a passion that changed the world. Today, across America and around the world, church leaders and believers in numbers too high to count are desperate to experience that same passion. Through our time together you will be introduced to relational discipleship as the operating system for a congregation, and be given new hope and confidence in reaching people and communities in our postmodern world with the Gospel.

In our time together, participants will be introduced to how to:

1. Transform church members into disciples
2. Mobilize your congregation into a community reflecting the love and life of Jesus
3. Nurture Christians who yearn to be closer to Jesus to have faith that shapes every aspect of their lives
4. Confidently introduce non-believers to Christ in a non-threatening, relaxed manner and experience a faith that is real.

Keynote speaker is Mike Breen. As rector and team leader of St. Thomas' Church in Sheffield, Mike led this Anglican and Baptist church as it grew to the largest church in the north of England with 2,000+ members, 80 percent of whom are under age 40. Breen is currently helping Church of Joy (Phoenix) and the Fuller Seminary. He is also actively engaged in global ministry through The Order of Mission.

Join us for this Northwest LifeShapes Conference Friday, Nov. 3, and Saturday, Nov. 4, at Sammamish Hills, 22818 SE Eighth St, Sammamish. On Friday registration begins at 5 p.m.; conference from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday's event is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. Registration fee is $75, which covers materials, snacks and Saturday dinner. Registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 30.

For more information, go to www.shlc.org, or contact April Fink at 425-392-7799 or email to hospitality@shlc.org for the conference flyer.

Students Heading to College

It's that time of year to send off your high school graduates and let them know about Lutheran Campus Ministry. As your graduates who are heading to college prepare, be sure to let Lutheran Campus Ministry know their names, contact information and the school they'll be attending. Send your referrals to Pastor Scott Postlewait, Lutheran Campus Ministry, 4525 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105, or email them to chscott@drizzle.com.

Fall Hunger Conversation

All are invited to attend the next Hunger Conversation from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 23. This year's Conversation will feature guests speaking to global efforts to reduce hunger and poverty through establishing economic self sufficiency and sustainability. The Conversation will take a closer look at the World Hunger and Fair Trade items, information, and efforts that were represented at the Synod Assembly and included in the beautiful tote bags crafted in Lebanon. Save the date. Watch for your Congregation's Invitation because it will be mailed soon. For more information email the committee at worldhunger@lutheransnw.org.

Update
ELCA Board of Pensions

Planning For 2007—Estimate next year's budgets by using preliminary 2007 rates with our contribution amount and total compensation calculators. Employers will be mailed a hard copy of actual 2007 contribution rates for their geographic area after rates are finalized in early August. To view preliminary 2007 rates see, www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/cost_coverage. Or use the online calculators at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/calculators.

Here I Step: A Journey To Reformation—As *Here I Step: Summer Steppin'* comes to a close, we invite you to live well and reform yourself during our fall campaign. We offer two paths for your journey.

1. *Here I Step: A Journey to Reformation* is a six-week walking and wellness campaign (Sept. 17 – Oct. 29) that follows the road map for wellness: increase physical activity, decrease caloric intake and live prayerfully. To learn more, see www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/health_tutorials/journey_reform.asp.
2. *Walk to Wellness* is a 28-day campaign (Oct. 1 – 28) available through Mayo Clinic. This campaign lets you choose your goal level and then get walking with motivational information, an online tracking tool and strategies and tips for success. To participate in Walk to Wellness you must enroll between Sept. 17 – 30. For more information, see www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/health_tutorials/walk_to_wellness.asp

New Look For Your Online Account Access—Do you go online to access your ELCA retirement account? Beginning Aug. 2, a new web design with improved navigation will help you find your personal retirement account information faster. To view your account visit www.elcabop.org (select 'Online account access').

Employment Opportunity

Organist Needed

An Organist is needed at Camano Lutheran Church for one traditional Sunday morning service, plus Advent and Lenten services. Job begins September 3, 2006. If interested, please call the church office at 360-629-4592 or email camanoclc@wavecable.com.

Music Positions Available

The congregation of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue seeks to fill several music openings. We are seeking an Associate Organist, a Children's Choir Director and a Music Administrative Assistant. Positions are part-time and are paid hourly. Positions can be combined. Contact Kenneth DeJong at kendejong@salcbellevue.org or email materials to jobs@salcbellevue.org or send materials to: Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 148th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98007. The successful candidate(s) will have knowledge in choral and instrumental music.

Minister of Music

Holy Cross in Bellevue is currently searching for a musician to serve the congregation as a Minister of Music. It is a part-time position for approximately 20 hours a week. The successful candidate will be responsible for leadership over and coordination of worship, direction of the choir, working with the worship planning team to plan worship and part-time performance as a musician at congregational events. Qualifications must include a background of musical study, musical performance experience, ability to direct a mixed choir, proficient keyboard skills to lead congregational and small group singing, and the interpersonal skills necessary to work well with the staff and congregation. Contact Kimberly Kibby at hclcinfo@comcast.net.

Director of Music Ministries

Director of Music Ministries—a half time position with benefits negotiable and hours flexible. Salary will be in the range of $2,000/mo. Responsibilities include leading worship music at the organ/keyboard in all styles, serving as choral conductor, working in team with the pastor and lay leadership to plan worship, and administering the music ministry program. Recruitment of volunteers is a vital part of this ministry and enthusiasm as well as excellence in musical skills is a must. Instruments available include 2 manual Rodgers with full expression/pedalboard; Kohler & Campbell grand piano; Roland digital and handbells. Call or email for an application packet: Kent Lutheran Church, 336 Second Ave South, Kent WA 98032; 253 852-2057; klcoffice@kentlutheran.org.

News and Notes

- At long last, after six years of faithful waiting, **Getahun Tsegaye** has received a call to be the mission developer of an Ethiopian ministry in the Oregon Synod. Getahun will be ordained at Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland (2710 NE 14th) at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 20. You are cordially invited and to wish him well, pray with and for him and bless him in ministry. Getahun interned at St. Matthew's in Renton. If you are unable to attend, you may send cards of blessings and prayer to Getahun Tsegaye c/o Bethel Lutheran Church; 5658 N. Denver Ave; Portland, OR 97217.

Have You Heard?

The 2006 Youth Gathering of the ELCA offered about 40,000 Lutheran youth and adults the opportunity to participate in a variety of stewardship programs. The gathering took place in two back-to-back events in San Antonio, Texas. (15,000 young people, chaperones and volunteers participated July 5-9; more than 24,000 people participated July 12-16).

As of July 17 more than $530,000 had been raised for *Hamiltons for Hunger*. Under this effort, every participant was asked to bring $30 or *three Hamiltons* to raise $1 million for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Donations are still being collected.

Worship offerings from both weeks were about $580,000 and will benefit domestic and international ministries that support children, youth and families. About $100,000 in gift cards was collected as an *in-kind* offering to benefit six San Antonio organizations.

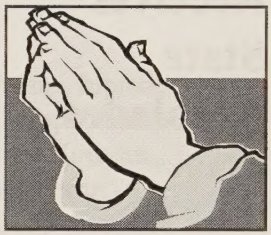
In addition to gift cards, about $50,000 in leftover materials was also collected.

Our youth not only raised money. During the event they participated in projects called *Servant Life Projects*. These projects were divided into three general categories: *care* which generally involved literacy programs with children; *construction* in which participants performed chores such as building or cleaning; and *culture* in which participants, accompanied by local volunteers, toured parts of the city to learn about the culture.

As part of the *Servant Life Project,* more than 3,000 hats with "happy thoughts" were made for young hospitalized children and teens made at least 5,000 school kits, consisting of art and writing supplies, for needy students in the San Antonio area and for students living along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Congregational youth from our Synod included: Faith in Bellingham, First Evangelical in Mount Vernon, Christ the King in Snohomish and many other congregational youth. Blessings to all of them.

Within Our Family



To Keep In Our Prayers...

We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † **Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
- † **Rev. Cindy Salo**
- † **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)**
- † **Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
- † **Rev. Ron Soine (ret.)**

We pray for:

† **Darin Richards, son of Rev. Jack Richards,** Bethlehem in Marysville. Darin was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer; he is a student at Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah. Please keep Darin, Jack and Joneen in your prayers.

† **Rev. John Olson (ret.)** learned that he has inoperable gallbladder cancer. John will undergo chemo and radiation therapy treatment. Cards may be sent to: John Olson, 612 Wanapum Dr, La Conner, WA 98257

† **Ken Olson, husband of Roselyn Olson, Associate in Ministry,** St. Luke's in Bellevue, as he continues to heal from surgery.

† In July **Ebenezer in Lake Stevens and Oak Harbor in Harbor** were broken in. Please continue to pray for those congregations as they now deal with the aftermath.

† We pray for **St. Stephens in Shoreline** as the congregation prepares to close on September 14. We thank the congregation for their years of faithful service.

† At our **weekly Tuesday staff meetings** we offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who have completed their terms on the Synod Council and for those who will begin their work September 1. We pray for our congregations, pastors, members, leaders and lay people that this summer they have had a time of refreshment and peace in the course of this busy life. We continue to pray for those serving in the Armed Forces. We pray for people thorughout the world who are living in fear, and for the victims of the earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters. We pray for peace.

***Within Our Family* depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997. This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.**

Lutheran Advocacy Receives State Accolades

Rev. Paul Benz, Director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) of Washington State, was honored with an award at the general session of the Washington School Nutrition Association on July 31.

Rev. Benz was praised for his advocacy to fund the school breakfast program throughout the state. In a letter addressed to Rev. Benz, the President of the Association stated that "you were a champion for children, families, and school districts as you advocated for $2 million in the House budget to slow the erosion of free and reduced breakfast funding, to provide start-up funds for summer food service programs, and to fund the $0.03 family co-pay for reduced-price breakfasts."

Rev. Benz continues to work on behalf of the three ELCA synods in this state to represent the ELCA Social Statements ,as well as fulfill the priorities established each year by the LPPO Advisory Council.

Congratulations, Paul! Congratulations to everyone who will benefit from the programs supported by advocacy efforts and congratulations to the members of the Northwest Washington Synod for another victory to bring good news to those who are impoverished in our State.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
G. Lee Kluth	Dir. Congregational Relations, PLU	7/1/2006
Justin E Johnson	Our Saviour's, Bellingham	7/1/2006
Andrew Yee	Bethany, Bainbridge	8/15/2006
Celebrations		
100th Anniversary	Bethlehem, Seattle	10/22/2006
Closing		
St. Stephens, Shoreline	Congregation Closing	9/14/2006
Installations		
Andrew Yee	Bethany, Bainbridge	9/10/2006
Justin Johnson	Our Saviour's, Bellingham	7/16/2006
Resignation		
Gretchen Cohan	First Richmond Beach, Shoreline	9/10/2006
Retirements		
J. B. Brandt	Zion, Everett	8/1/2006
Transfers in/out of the Synod		
Lawrence L Thompson	To Western North Dakota Synod	7/1/2006
David Sorensen	Eastern North Dakota	7/17/2006

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

(Transitions can be found on page 14.)

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Burien, Glendale	PR	I	Martha Myers, Interim
Custer, Zion	PR	P	Jay Decker, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	PR	TR	Katheryn Schlechter, and Dorcas Wang, Co-Interim Pastors
Everett, Faith	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Everett, Prince of Peace	PR	NV	Doug Stensby, Interim
Everett, Trinity	PR	NV	Chris Anderson, Interim
Kirkland, Holy Spirit	A	TR	Mike Anderson, Lead Pastor; Kathryn Buffum, Interim
Lynden, Hope	PR	TR	Jean Barrington, Interim
Maple Valley, Shepherd of the Valley	PR	TR	Elwood Carlson, Interim
Point Roberts, Trinity	PR	TR	Supply
Redmond, Faith	PR	TR	Paul Wuest, Interim
Renton, St. Matthew	A/SP	P	Kirby Unti, Lead Pastor
Seattle, Calvary	PR	TR	Karen L. Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	P	Supply
Shoreline, First Richmond Beach	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Our Saviour's	PR	I	Mike Swain, Interim
Woodenville, Wooden Cross	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

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